Import of hazardous waste

1907. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of hazardous waste imported in India each year during last five years;

(b) the nature of such hazardous waste;

(c) the reasons for importing hazardous waste;

(d) the names and quantity of hazardous waste imported from each country;

(e) the States and places where the hazardous waste is dumped; and

(f) what is the broad policy of Government of import of such wastes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(f) The policy of Government is reflected in the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules (HW Rules) notified in 1989 and amended in 2000 and 2003. Import of hazardous wastes for dumping or disposal purpose in not permitted, while some identified wastes listed under Schedule 3 of the HW Rules can be imported for recycling/ reuse purposes under regulated conditions. Import of certain highly hazardous wastes listed under Schedule 8 of the HW Rules is totally prohibited even for recycling/reuse. The basic principle of regulating the import of hazardous wastes is also reflected in the Exim Policy of Government.

Importers of chemical wastes

1908. SHRI S.P.M.SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some traders are freely engaged in importing restricted/ banned hazardous wastes without valid permission;